

**Town of Wellesley**  
**Community Preservation Committee**  
Natural Resources Commission Short Form Application Report

**Introduction**

The NRC was established in 1978 and consolidated the statutory functions of the Park Commission, Conservation Commission, Tree Warden, Town Forest Committee and Pest Control Officer. Its mission is to provide stewardship, education and advocacy of the Town's parks and conservation land so that Wellesley's natural assets can be preserved for future generations. Two NRC committees (the Wetlands Protection Committee and Trails Committee) also provide protection of our open space. The Wetlands Protection Committee is responsible for protecting the Town's wetlands, flood plains and related resource areas by administering and enforcing the Commonwealth's Wetland Protection Act and the Town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The Trails Committee's goal is to preserve and enhance Wellesley's off-street trails, such as the Cochituate Aqueduct and Fuller Brook Path Park.

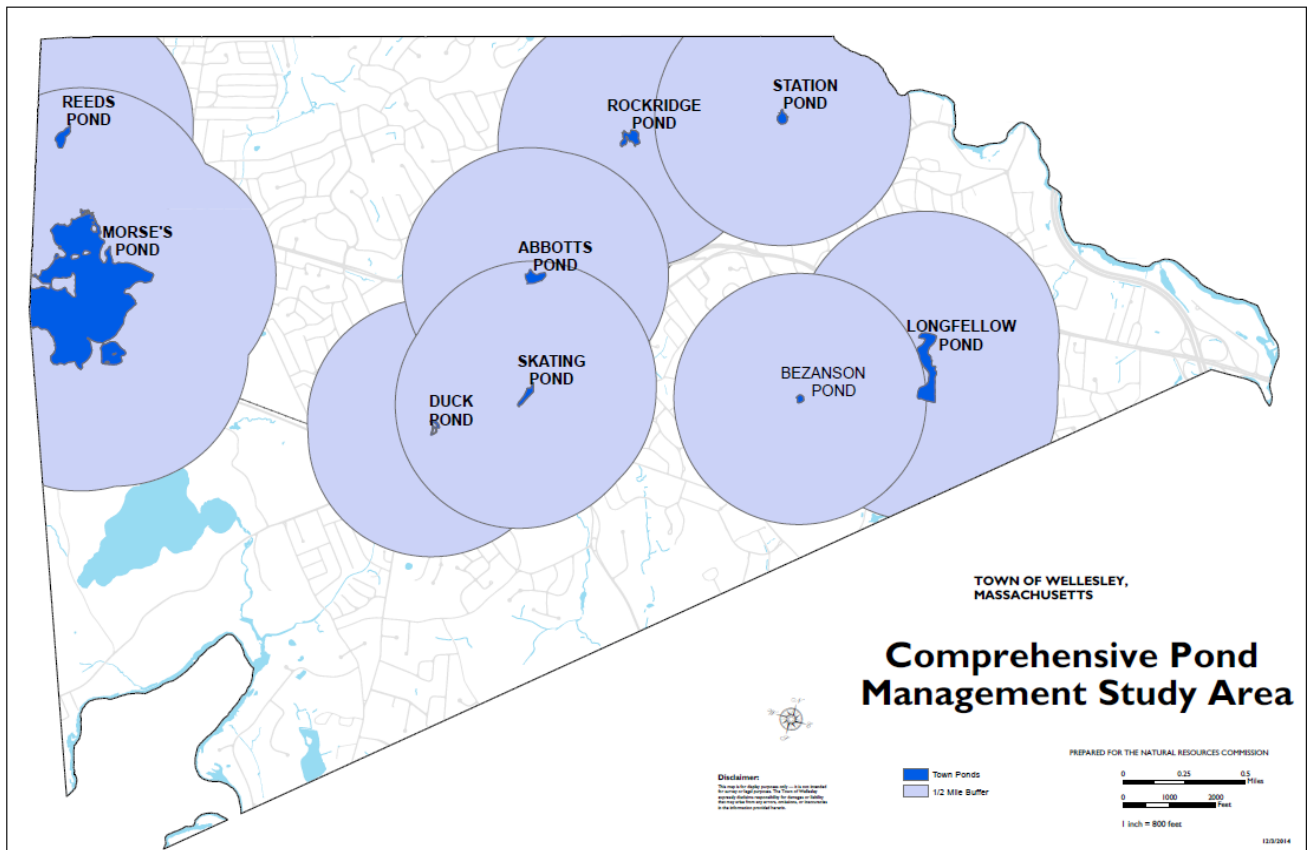
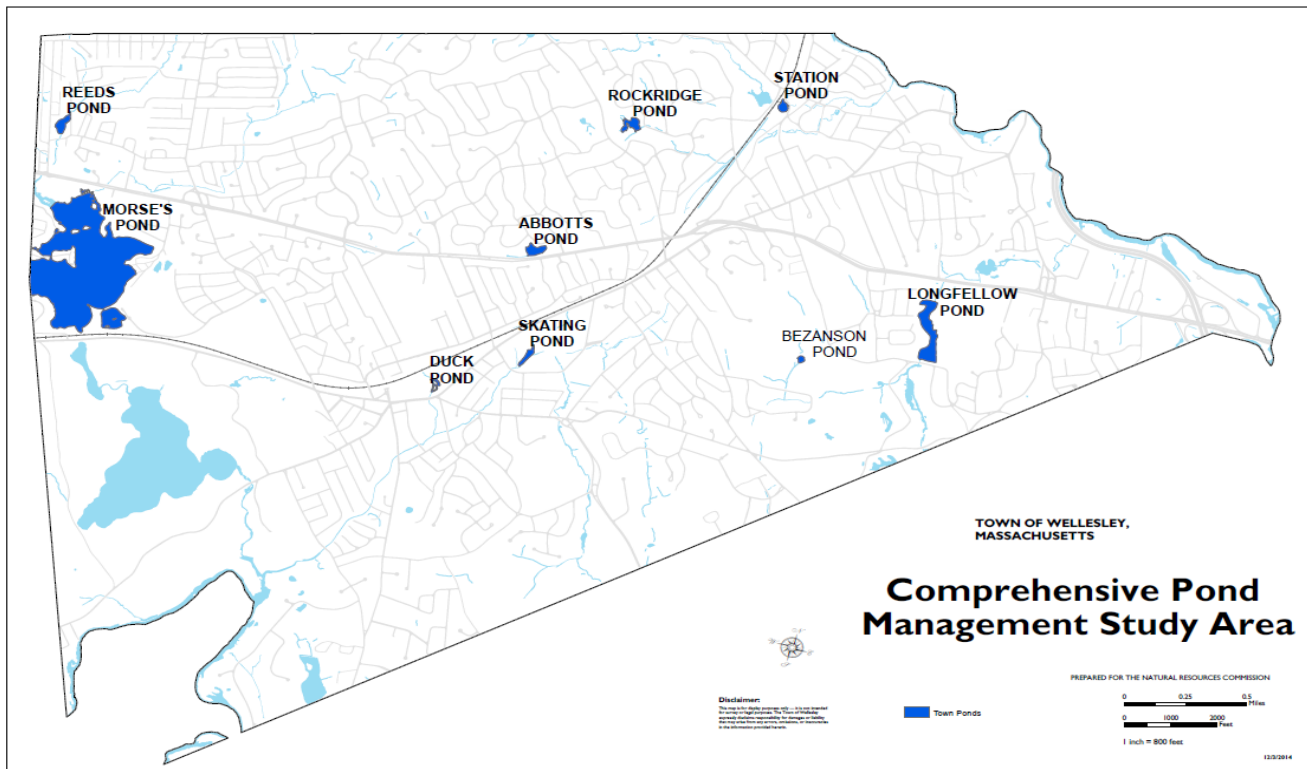
**Request 1: Comprehensive Pond Management Plan (\$100,000)**

Preservation of water resources in Wellesley is of paramount importance for aesthetic and public health purposes, recreation, and storm water management. In addition to Morses Pond, which currently has an active restoration plan, the Town's other eight pond ecosystems are fragile and must be monitored and protected from invasive species colonization, sedimentation and eutrophication. In FY16, the NRC is requesting \$100,000 to conduct the Comprehensive Pond Management planning process to assess and prioritize the preservation of the Town's ponds (Abbotts Pond, Duck Pond, Longfellow Pond, Reeds Pond, Rockridge Pond, Farm Station Pond, and Bezanson Pond). This capital request has been in the NRC Capital Plan for the past five years. Note that the State Street Pond (known as the Skating Pond) is being dredged this winter or spring as part of the Fuller Brook Preservation Project. This funding would allow the NRC to assess and prioritize immediate concerns at the Town's ponds, and develop a long-term preservation and maintenance plan. While smaller than Morses, these other ponds offer countless recreational and environmental benefits, and would be lost without proper preservation. Please see the attached maps on the next page for Pond locations.

Initial testing would involve collection of a minimum of 3 water quality samples per storm event (one collected before rain, one during the storm, and one afterwards). Data collected from 3 different storm events for each pond would provide a preliminary picture of the local water quality.

**This project meets the CPC criteria by:**

- Preserving and protecting pond and watershed water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and encouraging appropriate recreational activities
- Preserving open space, and preservation of recreational lands



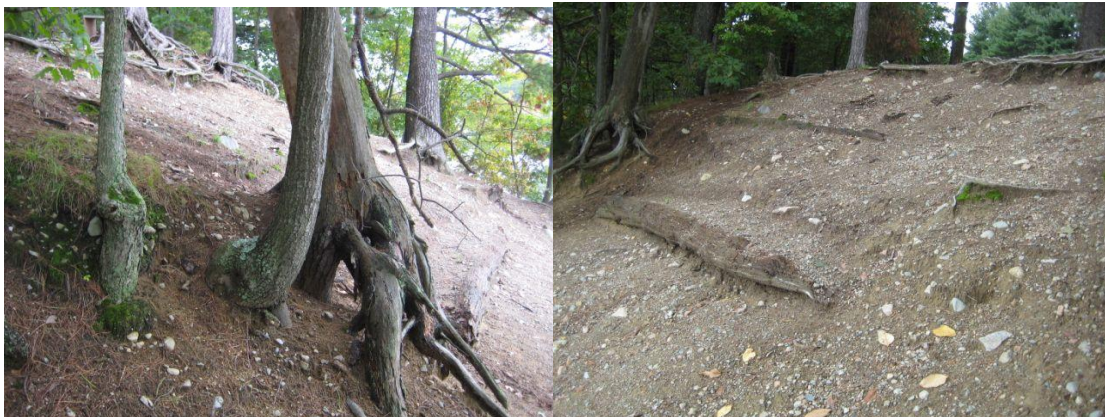
### **Request 2: Morses Pond Shore Erosion Study (\$20,000) -**

This funding is requested to conduct a study to evaluate the entire Morses Pond shore line, assess deterioration due to erosion, and to determine the areas of shore line requiring preservation. Areas of the Morses shore are eroding, threatening trees, wildlife habitat and recreational areas. Disturbance due to heavy foot traffic, informal boat launches and heavy storm water runoff threaten the stability of the bank and water quality in several areas. This request would fund a pond-wide survey and development of a preservation plan for areas that are unstable. Please see the attached photos below of existing erosion problems at the Pine Point area of Morses Pond.

#### **This project meets the CPC criteria by:**

- Preserving and protecting pond and watershed water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and encouraging appropriate recreational activities
- Preserving open space, and preservation of recreational lands

Furthermore, this project would meet CPC goals outlined in the CPC Plan: preserving and enhancing lake and pond frontage, and restoration of those resources that have been degraded or impaired.



**Pine Point Erosion Problems**





**Exposed Roots @ Picnic Area**



**Fallen Trees due to Erosion**

### **Request 3: Kelly Field Court: Land Use and Needs Assessment (\$2,500) - Priority 7**

This FY16 funding is requested to complete a study on current use of the tennis courts at Kelly Field and to evaluate needs for the future of the site. This study will be a collaborative effort by the NRC, DPW, the Recreation Commission, and the School Committee to determine the best use of the property. Should the finding of the study recommend preserving the courts, the study will include plans for repair and a design plan to meet safety code requirements. Alternative uses for the site will also be considered. Please see the attached map and photos below for more information.

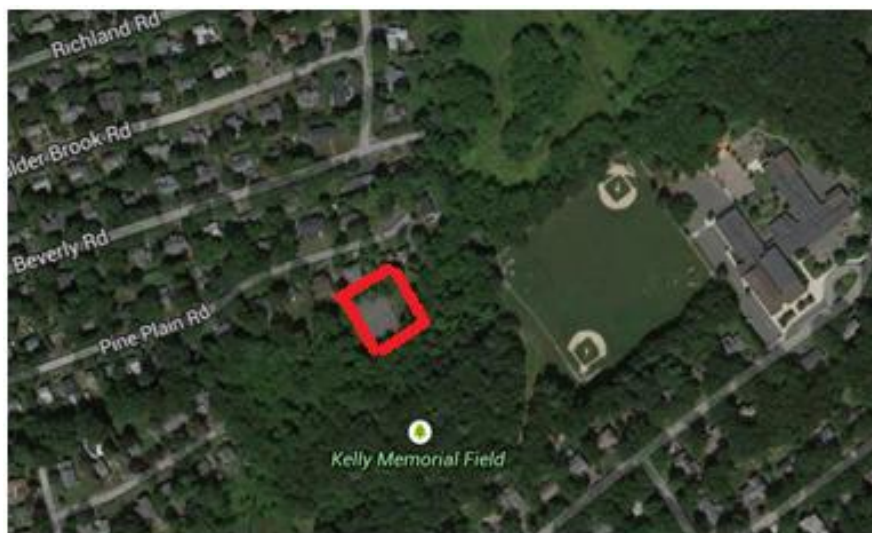
This project would involve assessment of the court use and the needs of the community, a cost estimate for different options, and development of a plan for court preservation or alternative use. Should an alternative use be recommended, this project would also have the potential to protect ground and surface water quality (in the crucial Morses pond watershed) by reducing runoff from the existing court surface.

#### **This project meets the CPC criteria by:**

- Restoration of existing recreational facilities, including updates for safety code requirements
- Preserving open space, and preservation of recreational lands
- Preserving and protecting pond and watershed water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and encouraging appropriate recreational activities

This project also has the potential to meet the CPC goals of serving a significant number of residents by supporting a diversity of both active and passive recreational programs, maximizing the benefit of the property.

The Town currently has 4 distinct Tennis facilities with a total of 17.5 courts ( 3 at Schofield School, 2 at Kelly Field, 4 at Sprague School and 8.5 at Hunnewell). While the courts at Hunnewell are in high demand, it is unclear how frequently the Kelly courts are used, and whether the property could be put to better use.



**Kelly Tennis Court Site Map**





**Pathway looking east into Kelly field area**



**Looking west to courts from pathway**



**Court setting**



**Current court conditions**



**Court looking north towards Pine Plain Rd. residences**

The Natural Resources Commission believes these projects meet the CPA funding criteria guidelines and will help to accomplish goals outlined in the Community Preservation Committee Plan. The commission appreciates your consideration of these applications and looks forward to speaking with you about how these projects will help the Town continue its tradition of open space and natural resource protection and exceptional active and passive recreation opportunities.

Respectfully submitted:

*Brandon Schmitt*

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NRC Director